



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING NORTH RIVERSIDE ROAD AND WEST ERIE STREET

UPDATE – JANUARY 26, 2012

The deceased suspect has been identified as **28-year old Michael Gale**, of Tucson. Next of kin have been notified.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – January 26, 2012

UPDATE – JANUARY 19, 2012

The officers involved in the shooting incident are Officer Benjamin Boschee, a nine-year veteran with the agency, and Officer Colin Hyde, a five-year veteran.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – January 19, 2012

At approximately 11 p.m. on January 18, 2012, officers from the Tucson Police Department's Operations Division West responded to a 911 call regarding suspicious activity near North Riverside Road and West Sonora Street. The caller reported a male subject with no shirt who was in the area kicking fences and yelling. Officers searched the area for the subject, and located him in the park area just east of Riverside and West Erie Street. During the contact the suspect threatened officers with a handgun and two officers fired their weapons, striking the suspect at least once. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The suspect is being identified as a **male in his 30's**. Next of kin have not yet been notified.

Detectives from the Homicide Unit and the Office of Internal Affairs responded to the scene to continue the investigation. Based upon the preliminary investigation, while the first two officers on scene were searching for the suspect, they heard a sound that they identified as a possible gunshot in the park near Riverside and Erie. As additional officers responded to assist, the first two officers located the suspect in the park. The suspect appeared to be holding a handgun, and he was partially concealed behind shrubbery. He was uncooperative and refused to comply with the officer's commands, keeping the hand with the gun concealed behind the bushes. At approximately 11:19 p.m., roughly one to two minutes after the officers located him in the park; the suspect raised both hands over his head briefly, and then brought the hand holding the gun down, leveling the gun at the officers. Fearing that their and other officer's lives were immediately in jeopardy, two

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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officers discharged their issued weapons, striking the suspect at least once. Paramedics were immediately summoned, but the suspect succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Detectives have obtained as yet unconfirmed reports that the suspect shot at a resident in the area shortly before officers arrived. Based on statements from officers and civilian witnesses describing the suspect's behavior and mannerisms, detectives are investigating the possibility that he was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

The investigation is ongoing as detectives continue to examine and collect evidence at the scene and interview witnesses and officers. An autopsy will be performed to determine if drugs or alcohol were factors influencing the suspect's behavior. The Homicide Unit will continue the criminal investigation, which will be presented to the Pima County Attorney's Office for review.

The Office of Internal Affairs will coordinate an administrative Board of Inquiry, which will examine several facets of the Department's response to this incident, including whether current training, equipment, supervision, and policies are adequate and appropriate. This type of post-shooting administrative review is standard protocol when an officer discharges their weapon in the line of duty. The process enables the department to apply any lessons learned during critical incident responses to ensure that the department continues to provide exceptional service to the community.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this incident to contact **911** or **88-CRIME**. Anonymous tips can be submitted via our website at <http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/Reporting/report-crime.htm>.

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